



Does God's Word Ever Fail?

Habakkuk 2:3: (NASB) *For the vision is yet for the appointed time; It hastens toward the goal and it will not fail. Though it tarries, wait for it; For it will certainly come, it will not delay.*



So yesterday, May 21st, was a much anticipated day for many, and I would guess a day of great disappointment and even bewilderment for those same people. What might they be thinking now? Did God not deliver what His word promised? What are the rest of us thinking? Were these people foolish in their commitment or were they misled by what appeared to them to be undeniable scriptural logic and harmony? Harold Camping's prophecy failed utterly. Does this mean that God's word failed along with it? Stay with us as we examine the short term aftermath of expectations gone bad in light of God's plan.

So, what happened?

There was no worldwide earthquake, there were no tsunamis, there was no rapture of 200 million people, nor did millions die as a result of catastrophe and judgment. Yesterday was just a day like most others, except for those who staked their futures on it marking the beginning of the end of the world - they had some things to think about.

Isaiah 55:7-9: (NASB) ⁷*Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the LORD, and He will have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. ⁸For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways, declares the LORD. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.*

 **May 21 Judgment Day Commercial Part 1, Familyradio.com**

- *God has commanded us to warn them that the sword is coming.*

Isaiah 55:10-11: (NASB) ¹⁰*For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there without watering the earth and making it bear and sprout, and furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; ¹¹So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.*

When God makes a statement, He means it. So what is He really saying?

This next verse is in a context of condemning those who make and worship idols:

Isaiah 46:8-10: (NASB) ⁸*Remember this, and be assured; Recall it to mind, you transgressors. ⁹Remember the former things long past, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, ¹⁰Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things which have not been done, saying, My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure;*



If God says that His word always accomplishes what it is sent for, then what can we conclude about May 21st? Possible conclusions:

- It was a lie.
- It was a scheme to scam people.
- It was the result of an overzealous mind fixed on wanting to know something specific.
- It was a false prophecy.

What should our reaction be to the non-event of May 21, 2011?

The Old Testament gave us principles for knowing what to look for:

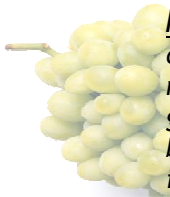
Deuteronomy 18:20: (NASB) *But the prophet who speaks a word presumptuously in My name which I have not commanded him to speak, or which he speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.*

This was spoken to the Jewish Nation, under the letter of the Law. We at this time learn from the principles, but Jesus himself told us that the standards were spiritual ones. Since we are under the New Testament calling to be a spiritual people of God, we are not to take the punishments of the physical nation unto ourselves.

Deuteronomy 18:21-22: (NASB) ²¹*You may say in your heart, How will we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?* ²²*When a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not come about or come true, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.*

If the prophecy doesn't come true, then it wasn't from God. Of course it may not happen:

- in the way we expect,
- in the timing we expect, or
- to the people we expect...but it is still going to happen!



Matthew 7:15-20: (NASB) ¹⁵*Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.* ¹⁶*You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they?* ¹⁷*So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit.* ¹⁸*A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit.* ¹⁹*Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.* ²⁰*So then, you will know them by their fruits.*

Because we can't read the heart, we can only assume that Mr. Camping was sincere but incorrect. However, many people were misled and it may have caused damage.



Judgment day on a rolling 24, Family Radio Open Forum May 16, 2011

- *The earthquake was to begin in New Zealand, 6pm their time and proceed around the world.*

What is the difference between speaking as a prophet and speaking as a student of prophecy?

- A prophet claims to be repeating what God has spoken to him;
- A student repeats understanding and connection based on Scripture study.
- A prophet is precise and decisive as they claim a link directly to God;
- A student points to prophecy and attempts to place it in its proper chronological context.
- A prophet leaves no room for doubt;
- A student sees things through the eyes of their best interpretation.

2 Peter 2:1-3: (NASB) ¹*But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. ²Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; ³and in their greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.*

End time prophecies are difficult to understand and in most cases may be impossible to do ahead of time. God's delay is not His denial.

How do we gain perspective on God's word, will and timing?

1. REQUEST: We must request -
if there is something we cannot see, do or grasp:

Ask the hard and detailed questions to gain clarity in the grasping of the vision.

Habakkuk's first question is basically, "God, where have you been?" Habakkuk is positioned to watch and see.

Habakkuk 1:2-4: (NRSV) ²*O LORD, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not listen? Or cry to you "Violence!" and you will not save? ³Why do you make me see wrongdoing and look at trouble? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. ⁴So the law becomes slack and justice never prevails. The wicked surround the righteous—therefore judgment comes forth perverted.*



God's answer to the first question was destruction - a prophecy of the great Time of Trouble:

Habakkuk 1:5-11: (NRSV) ⁵Look at the nations, and see! Be astonished! Be astounded! For a work is being done in your days that you would not believe if you were told. ⁶For I am rousing the Chaldeans, that fierce and impetuous nation, who march through the breadth of the earth to seize dwellings not their own.... ¹⁰At kings they scoff, and of rulers they make sport. They laugh at every fortress, and heap up earth to take it. ¹¹Then they sweep by like the wind; they transgress and become guilty; their own might is their god!

The answer to this first question is a recounting of the permission of evil. This is a phenomena that is among the most difficult to grasp for the average person.

Habakkuk isn't satisfied with this first answer, so he asks another question. It is a challenge of sorts to the first answer:

Habakkuk 1:12-13: (NRSV) ¹²Are you not from of old, O LORD my God, my Holy One? (WE) shall not die. O LORD, you have marked them for judgment; and you, O Rock, have established them for punishment. ¹³Your eyes are too pure to behold evil, and you cannot look on wrongdoing; why do you look on the treacherous, and are silent when the wicked swallow those more righteous than they?



Habakkuk basically asks, "Aren't you the Creator of all - are you not bigger than this evil? Why is this allowed?" This is a very important question, one that we all ask. Why do bad things happen to good people?

Sometimes, as we look to grasp understanding, we fall into only seeing the immediate turmoil and not the grander vision. The immediate turmoil is never the end result. It is a part of a process.

In such cases, we are like a car driving through thick fog. You can have the best, fastest, shiniest, most powerful vehicle on the road, but you still must drive slowly. You are no different than the car next to you. Sometimes the world in which we live is like that fog and we have to proceed slowly, looking for the word of God.



May 21 God gives another infallible proof, FamilyRadio.com

Infalible proof???

Romans 12:3: (NASB) *For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.*

We ought not to think more highly of ourselves than we should. We need to be able to look at the Scriptures in the context in which they belong.

Our failure can come when we see God's word as being done to us, rather than in us.

2. RESET: Reposition yourself to alertly receive God's answer - change your focus.

Habakkuk 2:1: (Young's Literal Translation): *On my charge I stand, and I station myself on a bulwark, and I watch to see what He doth speak against me, and what I do reply to my reproof.*

Habakkuk is now repositioned to stand, to watch and to receive, looking for his instruction. His prayer, while full of question, was full of faith and humility as well. He did all he could to clearly receive the answer, for he not only expected the answer, he expected to grasp it and to be able to use it to answer the unbelievers.



An arrow slot on the rampart (bulwark, defensive wall) around the Old City of Jerusalem

This change of posture is not necessarily easy and in most cases it is most certainly not comfortable.

 **May 21 Judgment Day Commercial Part 2, Familyradio.com**

Mr. Camping asserts that there were exactly 722,500 days from the crucifixion of Jesus to May 21st, 2011. He uses a mathematical equation to equal this number as a second "infallible" proof of his prediction of the rapture and Judgment Day.

 **May 21 Another infallible proof - Conclusion, Family Radio.com**

- *Each saved person goes to heaven because his salvation is completed.*
- *05 - Signifies Atonement and Redemption (Numbers 3:47-48)*
- *10 - Signifies Completeness*
- *17 - Signifies Heaven*
- *Now, multiply 5x10x17=850. Now multiply 850x5x10x17=722,500*
- *The doubling of these numbers 5, 10 and 17 as in "a day as a thousand years" assures us that the May 21 date is absolutely certain.*

The Scriptures are full of numbers and full of prophecies. Us trying to apply mathematical formulas is *fallible* thinking, certainly not infallible.

What a contrast between the attitude of Habakkuk and the no longer "infallible" reasoning for May 21st!

Matthew 24:23-24: (NASB) ²³Then if anyone says to you, 'Behold, here is the Christ,' or 'There He is,' do not believe him. ²⁴For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.




Has God's word found or failed Israel?

Thus far we have learned from Habakkuk two steps to look into God's plans and prophecies: Request and Reset. The third step from this Prophet's experience is to Receive - to listen and wait for God's overruling.

For us as *Students of Prophecy*, it is impossible to look at Bible prophecy without looking long and hard at Israel, as it is the focus of a myriad of prophecies. Yet there are many different perspectives on the role Israel will or will not play in the outworking of God's plan.

Guest Caller: David Stein

 **Jerusalem must not be divided - Obama on June 4, 2008, to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee**

- *Israel's security is non-negotiable.*
- *The Palestinians need a state that is contiguous and cohesive. Any agreement must preserve Israel's identity as a Jewish state with secure, recognized and defensible borders.*
- *Jerusalem will remain the capital of Israel and it must remain undivided!*



 **1967 borders for Israel, Obama on May 19, 2011**

- *Negotiations should result in two states with permanent Palestinian borders with Israel, Jordan and Egypt, and permanent Israeli borders with Palestine.*
- *The borders of Israel and Palestine should be based on pre-1967 lines with mutually agreed swaps so that secure and recognized borders are established for both states. (Note: Pre-1967 borders would mean a divided Jerusalem with many of the holy sites under Palestinian control.)*

We don't want to become too political in our view of these things because we want to take the scriptural view. In 1 Timothy 2:1,2 we are told to pray for those in authority so that we can lead a peaceful life. However, Obama's statements are in opposition to God's plan for Israel.

Genesis 15:18: (KJV) *In the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates.*

The land promised was much larger than what Israel has today, so for an international leader to say that we need to take land away and give it to sworn enemies of Israel is clearly taking a position contrary to what God planned. Although we recommend reading the entire Zachariah 2, we will quote a few verses:

Zachariah 2:8-9: (KJV) ⁸*For thus saith the Lord of hosts; After the glory hath he sent me unto the nations which spoiled you: for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye.* ⁹*For behold I will shake my hand upon them, and they shall be a spoil to their servants: and ye shall know that the Lord of hosts hath sent me.*



This is a warning to leave God's chosen ones alone. If one is in opposition to God respecting them, there are consequences.

Zachariah 2:13: (KJV) *Be silent, O all flesh, before the Lord: for He is raised up out of His holy habitation.*

We must diligently and sincerely try to establish the prophecies, especially as they relate to Israel.

Back to the lessons of Habakkuk to help us reset our expectations:

**3. RECEIVE: listen and wait -
action and change will likely be required.**

God instructs, encourages and judges as he prepares Habakkuk to see the vision:

Habakkuk 2:2-4: (NRSV) ²*Then the LORD answered me and said: Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it. ³For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end, and does not lie. If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay. ⁴Look at the proud! Their spirit is not right in them, but the righteous live by their faith.*

This text gives us six important points to being able to see the SUCCESS of God's Word that is in the process of unfolding:



If we have REQUESTED in humility and RESET in faith,
then we can RECEIVE in confidence.

Proverbs 3:26: (NRSV) *for the LORD will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being caught.*



Where was Habakkuk when he received? He was standing, watching, stationed upon a bulwark - a defensive wall. This posture enabled him to receive the vision - the correct vision and only the correct vision in its clarity. He did not add to the words of God.



Nonbelievers in the rapture doomed - May 16, Family Radio Open Forum

- *Those who think Christ is coming as a thief in the night and that we cannot know the date are heading for sudden destruction.*

That's disturbing! Camping is quoting these verses:

1 Thessalonians 5:1-4: (NASB) ¹Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. ²For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. ³While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape. ⁴But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief;

So every Christian who did not believe in his reasoning for the May 21st date was condemned. That's bold! This is a warning to all of us. Let us be sure that we approach prophecy as students and not authorities.

Suggestion: Read Mark 13, the entire chapter.

What other examples are there of God seeming to delay?

Some of God's apparent delays:

Genesis 12:1-3: (NASB) ¹Now the LORD said to Abram, Go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father's house, to the land which I will show you; ²And I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; ³And I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.

What a great promise, but he had no children! Abram was about 75 years old at the time.

...But 25 years later:

Genesis 17:17: (NASB) Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, Will a child be born to a man one hundred years old? And will Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?

Sometimes faith can waiver, but God is faithful.

Genesis 21:5: (NASB) Now Abraham was one hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

When God gives a promise, it is always in God's time, but it does come true.

Acts 1:6-8: (NASB) ⁶So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?

A pointed question which shows an EXPECTATION of God's rule being restored to the physical nation of Israel. (This is just before Jesus ascends to heaven.)



⁷He said to them, *It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority;* ⁸*but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses...*

Jesus doesn't answer directly, but he does confirm God's rule coming back to Israel by not changing their expectation. He also gives them their new "assignment" to be his witnesses. Refocus and let God take care of the times and seasons. This was spoken 2,000 years ago that Israel would be restored.

Micah 4:1-4: (NASB) ¹*And it will come about in the last days that the mountain of the house of the LORD will be established as the chief of the mountains. ("Mountains" in Scripture generally symbolize governments.) It will be raised above the hills, and the peoples will stream to it. ²Many nations will come and say, Come and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD and to the house of the God of Jacob, that He may teach us about His ways and that we may walk in His paths. For from Zion will go forth the law, even the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. (The peoples from many nations will stream into the place of God's government. This is why it was important for Israel to be a nation again.) ³And He will judge between many peoples and render decisions for mighty, distant nations. Then they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they train for war. ⁴Each of them will sit under his vine and under his fig tree, with no one to make them afraid, for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.*

Don't forget the rest of the prophecies that speak of after the days of tribulation, after the trouble, death and destruction.

The end result? GOD NEVER DELAYS - He accomplishes exactly that which he wants exactly when He wants for the good of ALL!

*So, does God's word ever fail? (no!)
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*



*And now even more to think about...
only in the **Full Edition** of CQ Rewind!*

There were two more steps taken by Habakkuk that we could not even begin to cover in today's program - here they are!!

4. RESPOND: Consecrate yourself to absolute obedience to the vision - respond in zeal!

Habakkuk prays a prayer of thanksgiving and praise:

Habakkuk 3:2: (NKJV) *O LORD, I have heard your speech and was afraid; O LORD, revive Your work in the midst of the years! In the midst of the years make it known; In wrath remember mercy.*

O LORD, I have heard your speech: He heard the message!

and was afraid: The message had the ability to be overwhelming.

In the midst of the years make it known; In wrath remember mercy: During this great time of trouble, Habakkuk rests on God's mercy prevailing.

- So he hears the message;



- It is bigger than he is;
- He must rely entirely upon the Almighty as a result.

Habakkuk 3:16: (ASV) *I heard, and my body trembled, My lips quivered at the voice; Rottenness entereth into my bones, and I tremble in my place; Because I must wait quietly for the day of trouble, For the coming up of the people that invadeth us.*

Habakkuk 3:17-19: (NRSV) ¹⁷*Though the fig tree does not blossom, and no fruit is on the vines; though the produce of the olive fails, and the fields yield no food; though the flock is cut off from the fold, and there is no herd in the stalls, ¹⁸yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will exult in the God of my salvation. ¹⁹GOD, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, and makes me tread upon the heights.*

Having REQUESTED in humility, RESET in faith, and RECEIVED in confidence, Habakkuk was now able to RESPOND in zeal. The vision, though in some ways overwhelming, was clearly in his mind now, having been in his heart up to this point. It could now be released to his passion. It is here that the test of COURAGE must rise to great heights, for whenever we are called upon to rise up - to change - to step out, we are ALWAYS faced with FEAR. Although it has been required throughout, courage is now center stage, where it will have its showdown with fear.

5. REJOICE: The greatest act of faith is to rejoice in assurance - though the present is bleak.

The third chapter of Habakkuk is filled with the fearsome events of the great time of trouble. This again reveals the overwhelming power of the complete and intact vision. Fear can still break us, so it is courage that must rule our hearts.

That one degree of separation yields the following response:

Habakkuk 3:17-19: (NRSV) ¹⁷*Though the fig tree does not blossom, and no fruit is on the vines; though the produce of the olive fails, and the fields yield no food; though the flock is cut off from the fold, and there is no herd in the stalls, ¹⁸yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will exult in the God of my salvation. ¹⁹GOD, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, and makes me tread upon the heights....*

*Though the fig tree does not blossom;
no fruit is on the vines;
though the produce of the olive fails;
the fields yield no food;
the flock is cut off from the fold;
there is no herd in the stalls,*

Yet I will rejoice in the Lord...!

The "Christian Questions" compilation of Proverbs. 29:18: *Where there is no vision, the people are vulnerable, confused and heading toward utter defeat...*

To defy defeat, we must have VISION!



Habakkuk 2:2-4: (NRSV) ²Then the LORD answered me and said: Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it. ³For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end, and does not lie. If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay. ⁴Look at the proud! Their spirit is not right in them, but the righteous live by their faith.

